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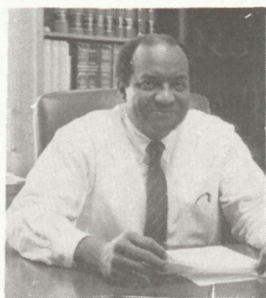
PRAIRIE VIEW REVIEW

Vol. 1 No 2

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 1986

Notes From The President's Desk



Last month, the NCAA again voted to implement the discredited rule originally called Proposition 48. This is the rule that establishes new eligibility standards for freshmen athletes. It was a classic case of "Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up." The Convention had made up its mind to pass something to show the general public that it supported academic standards. The facts it ignored were contained in a \$300,000 study it sponsored. The question of whether Proposition 48 represented a good standard or a bad standard was put aside in the rush to apply some standard that had the appearance of "toughness."

Proposition 48 originated in 1983 out of the real concern that student athletes were not graduating from college at rates comparable to their peers in Division I schools. There were numerous documented cases of major athlete programs that graduated very few of its athletes even though they were maintained in academic good standing for four years so as to use up their athletic eligibility. The university of Georgia was a prime example at that time. That University is now being sued over its practices in its academic handling of athletes.

Proposition 48 was put forth as a solution to the problem of non-graduating athletes. It requires that a high school student present a 2.0 GPA in certain high school courses and that they present a 700 score on the SAT or a

(See President, page 4)

Chapel Dedication Highlights Annual Minister's Conference

The annual Interdenominational Ministerial Conference was held February 4 & 5, 1986 in the Hobart Taylor Building. In an effort to bring nearly 500 ministers throughout Texas together in a spirit of cohesiveness the conference focused on the Black Family.

The thrust of the conference centered around the theme 'Man's Dilemma and

God's Design: The Church Faces the Family Crisis.' In confronting this issue, the conference set three goals: 1) to perpetrate community leadership training 2) encourage community social involvement and 3) to provide training in the economic perspective of the community.

Reverend Van Johnson, the conference host, sees "a tremendous need for the family institution." "There is a tendency for some segments of society to play up the weaknesses of the family, we have to charge to look at the strengths."

A stirring delivery was presented by the keynote speakers. The Reverend Wallace

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Fellowship Named for Astronaut Hero

President Percy Pierre announced on Jan. 31st, the creation of the Ronald McNair Fellowship. The award, in the amount of \$10,000, will honor the memory of the second Black American in space, a member of the ill-fated Challenger crew.

According to Dr. Pierre, "Ron was an inspiration to the entire nation. However, his achievements, dedication and courage bear particular relevance to Black Americans and Prairie View A&M University.

"He was committed to the advancement of Black Americans and other minorities in the sciences and engineering. He was an inspirational speaker and lent his time and effort to the national minority engineering effort. We at Prairie View are indebted to him."

A native of Lake City, South Carolina, McNair graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T University in 1971. He then received his Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976.

The Ronald McNair Graduate Fellowship will be awarded to a student in engineering or science. Applicants should contact the Dean's office, Graduate School, Prairie View A&M University.

PROFILE

Gary O'Neal

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Percy A. Pierre, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has approved the appointment of Mr. Gary W. O'Neal, C.P.A. as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs & Budgets. The position, the fifth vice presidency of the university, was created in an effort "to enhance the rate of improvement in the fiscal operations at Prairie View A&M University," according to Dr. Pierre.

Mr. O'Neal joins Prairie View with a rich background in the A&M System and 16 years experience with industry in financial



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Executive Vice-President Builds On Rich Tradition

The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Thomas J. Cleaver plays a pivotal role in the molding of outstanding academic scholarship in Prairie View students.

The cask in which Dr. Thomas J. Cleaver's desire to pursue a career in higher education was formed decades before his birth. Dr. Cleaver's lineage to PV dates back to the 1880's when his grandfather attended Prairie View Training School where he also attended grades one through eleven many years later.

Dr. Cleaver attributes much of his success to the inspiration of and motivation from his parents both of whom graduated from Prairie View in 1911. The elder paternal Cleaver continued his association with Prairie View as an instructor of Industrial Education for many years later.

With such positive influence, it was no surprise that Thomas Cleaver continued to reap the benefits of higher education by completing both the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology (1946) and the Master of Education degree in Educational Administration (1953) from Prairie View.

While committing himself to the education of young people in the public school systems of Nacogdoches and Austin, Texas



Dr. Thomas J. Cleaver, Executive Vice President, and Governor Mark White at the State Capitol following a news conference to announce the Summer 1985 Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program at Prairie View A&M University. Y.O.U. is an annual summer youth, employment and training program co-sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Houston Job Training Partnership Council, the City of Houston and Prairie View A&M University.

for a total of 19 years, he earned the Ph.D. in Science Education at the University of Texas at Austin in 1968.

Dr. Cleaver continued to polish and refine his educational philosophies and techniques while serving the profession as Staff

consultant and an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, from 1968 to 1971. He moved to the Chicago area next,

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Survey Illustrates Student Strengths

A recent survey, designed to measure student opinions about a wide variety of university programs and activities, reveals that Prairie View students tended to respond more favorably about their student life than other students from comparable institutions.

Taken as a whole, these findings suggest that PVAMU students tend to believe PVAMU is addressing many of their needs in an exceptional fashion.

The College Student Experiences Questionnaire (CESQ) administered to over 600 students, provides information that will aid administrators in their continued effort to build effective educational programs, and communicate program successes to others.

Survey responses indicate the PVAMU students exceed their peers in other comparable institutions in the following areas:

- Slightly more library utilization
- More contact with faculty members
- More exposure to art, music, and theatre
- More use of the student union
- More athletic activity
- More likely to have submitted material for publications.
- More exposure and experiences with science and technology.

Moreover, the CSEQ permitted students to indicate the degree to which they made gains in 21 areas. PVAMU students reported gains that exceeded other comprehensive colleges and universities (CCU) student gains on three-fourths of the items in the section.

PVAMU student gains were exceptional in areas such as vocational training, enjoyment of arts, writings, computer familiarity, philosophical and ethical awareness, self understanding, human relations, health habits, understanding science and technology, and logical and quantative thinking.

Complete study results, with accompanying statistical analysis are available in the office of Institutional Research or by calling Tom Matthews at extension 2314.

Complex Named for Most Successful Coach

"The Physical Education and Intramural Complex at Prairie View A&M University shall be named 'The W.J. "Billy" Nicks Physical Education and Intramural Complex' in honor of an outstanding educator, dedicated coach and a 'builder of men of character' who served the University from 1945 to 1973." So went the recommendation and adoption statement by President Percy A. Pierre at the January 2, 1986 Board of Regents meeting.

Mr. William J. Nicks, Sr. joined the Prairie View staff in 1945 and subsequently served as professor, head coach for football, basketball and track. Mr. Nicks distinguished himself nationally while coaching football teams with an impressive career record of 184-55-9; Bowl Game record 11-1. His achievements gained him induction into the Hall of Fame, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Morris Brown College Hall of Fame, where he

received his formal degree. In 1959, he was named "Coach of the Year," by the prestigious Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C.

During his tenure as Athletic Director, Mr. Nicks continued to foster the champion spirit by actively recruiting and employing coaches who compiled winning records in several sports areas. Under his leadership, four conference championships one national championship in basketball; three conference championships in golf; eight conference championships and four national championships in men's track; and twelve conference championships in tennis were captured.

In 1973 Mr. Nicks retired from the University as Special Assistant to the President. With such an illustrious career, "dedication and success in the molding of athletics and citizens, it is only fitting that the Prairie View Physical Education and Intramural Complex be named for him" voiced President Pierre.

Alumni Association Gets Official Nod

The Texas A&M Board of Regents has designated the National Alumni Association of Prairie View A&M University as the official alumni organization of the University.

While the university has long recognized this organization, the official designation by the Board allows the university to enter into some new cooperative programs that were not before possible. For instance, the University has agreed to provide office space for the association in return for its assistance.

The National Alumni Association has as its stated purpose the effecting "of a union of alumni: ex-students and interested citizens of similar aspiration for the perpetuation of the University."

The Association will assist the University in providing services and information to its former students, and in raising funds for the support and maintenance of the University and its various programs.

The range of the National Association's involvement may include the development and implementation of programs for securing grants, endowments and other financial assistance.

PV Restores Residence Halls

The Summer of 1984 and 1985 have seen a significant impact on a five year plan to restore all residence halls to minimal standards as far as satisfactory performance of plumbing, sanitary building conditions, security and safety of residents and property are concerned.

Though some work has been completed in all residence halls, Holley, Fuller, Alexander, Suarez-Collins and L. O. Evans have undergone major renovations. Maintenance and reliability of mechanical equipment in each building has improved with a resulting decrease in resident complaints concerning environmental comfort. Security has been significantly enhanced as all residence halls have been outfitted with new locks and keys. New furnishings such as carpeting, draperies, blinds and televisions have and will be provided as part of the residence hall restoration program.

Future plans call for a major renovation of Alexander (North) and Buchanan Halls during Summer '86.



Black Family Symposium Provokes Discussion

Prairie View A&M University hosted a day-long symposium on the Black family, January 17. The theme was "The Black Family: Strengths, Stresses, and Alternatives." Co-sponsors of the event were the University's College of Home Economics, Office of Student Activities, and Department of Social Work and Sociology, as well as two Houston community organizations, S.H.A.P.E Community Center and Churches Interested in Premature Parentage (CHIPP).

The symposium involved human services professionals and students from Prairie View A&M University, Rice University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas. Approximately two hundred persons attended the workshops held throughout the day which dealt with cultural conti-

nuity, education, health issues, public and corporate policy, sexuality, and support systems.

Dr. Harriett McAdoo, a professor of social work at Howard University, addressed the opening general session and challenged her audience with a lucid and factual description of the increasing problem of female-headed households among black families. During lunch, the University's Charles Gilpin players presented a socio-drama, "Is Anybody Listening?" The symposium was chaired by Dr. Robert Austin, a Houston pediatrician, and Dr. Elaine Adams, Prairie View Vice-President for Student Affairs. The planning committee, composed of university and community representatives, intends to publish a report of the symposium's proceedings.

Executive Vice-President Builds On Rich Tradition

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where he was University Professor of Science and Instruction in the College of Environmental and Applied Sciences at Governors State University. In his position at Governor's State Dr. Cleaver pioneered the development of curriculum from that institution's inception. He returned to Texas as Professor of Science Education at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1973 and remained at UTSA for the ensuing 10 years, serving four of those years as Director of the Division of Education.

Dr. Cleaver returned to Prairie View A&M University in January of 1983 as Dean of the College of Education. In September of 1983, he was asked by Dr. Pierre to serve as Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, and in November of 1984 upon the recommendation of the President, he was appointed to his present position as Execu-

tive Vice President for Academic Affairs by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M System.

Firmly rooted in his commitment to Prairie View, Dr. Cleaver revealed, "The reason I am here and not at UT San Antonio is to try to help Prairie View achieve the kind of excellence it has always deserved."

Accompanying his professional goals for Prairie View is his potent personal commitment "to have students develop and demonstrate the same level of concern for excellence and scholarship that administrators and faculty now support."

Dr. Cleaver's crystalized vision for Prairie View is to "see the University grow to a size that serves a larger population that needs and requires higher education, composed of all ethnic groups who want a high quality education in a highly supportive and humane environment."

PROFILE

Gary O'Neal

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and audit operations. During his tenure with industry, Mr. O'Neal served as Assistant State Auditor responsible for auditing financial operations of the University of Houston, Texas Southern University and The Texas State Technical Institute. He has also audited the financial operations of West Texas State University and Stephen F. Austin University.

In 1974 Mr. O'Neal joined the Texas A&M University System as Assistant Director of Accounting. He subsequently held positions of greater responsibility as System Analyst, Coordinator of Special Projects and most recently Director of Audits and was responsible for planning, organizing and directing the System Internal Audit Program.

Since his arrival at Prairie View, Mr. O'Neal has instituted several changes promoting the efficiency of fiscal affairs. Among such changes is the recent approval to give departmental administrators more authority to manage department budgets.

Articulating his impressions of the university, Mr. O'Neal sees Prairie View as "a very good institution going where it needs to go." "With time and effort, I see Prairie View as being one of the premiere universities in the state. Since the advent of Dr. Pierre substantial progress has been made." A native Texan, Mr. O'Neal received the BBA degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. O'Neal resides with his wife and child in College Station, Texas.

Dr. Arthur Hansen Tours PVAMU Campus

Dr. Hansen (center) toured the campus to review the many improvements initiated during his four-year tenure as Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. L-R: Dean Perry, Dr. Hansen, Ms. Genevieve Stubbs, and Dr. Ronald Boyd.



President's Notes

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similar score on the ACT. While most universities use their measures for admission of students, they don't use them in this manner. They allow high GPA's to compensate for low scores and vice versa. Thus a student graduating in the top 10 percent of his or her class would not need a minimum score. The standard adopted by NCAA has been shown to be highly inaccurate in predicting who will graduate. This inaccuracy is exacerbated for Black students.

As President of Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), I introduced an alternative to proposition 48 that garnered 66 votes but nonetheless failed. This Proposition 48 is in effect and student athletics being recruited or not recruited according to its mandate. However, I don't think we have seen the last of this issue. The Conference will continue to monitor the impact of this rule on us and on Black students throughout

the country. We are also studying what legal recourse might be available.

We are all in favor of high academic standards and excellence in education. However, we must pursue excellence in such a way as to increase the number of graduates and not by arbitrarily excluding young people who could graduate if given a change.

Minister's Conference

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Hartsfield, Metropolitan Mission Baptist Church, Kansas City Missouri; Dr. James Cone, Union Theological Seminary, N.Y., N.Y. were among the notables.

This was an unique conference in that the dedication of the All Faiths Chapel drew nearly 700 participants. Dr. John B. Coleman, Regent of the Texas A&M System and a major contributor to the chapel joined Dr. Pierre and Rev. Johnson in cutting the ribbon. Dr. John H. Foster, Shiloh Baptist Church and city councilman of Norfolk Virginia was the dedication speaker.

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